

**DISTRIBUTED PACKET CAPTURE AND AGGREGATION****ABSTRACT**

5 A system is described for monitoring and testing enterprise networks that tend to have  
a number of geographically dispersed devices and interconnected sub-networks. The system  
includes a plurality of distributed agents to capture packets from a network. The system  
further includes an aggregation module coupled to the network to receive and aggregate the  
captured packets. During the aggregation process, the aggregation module identifies  
duplicate packets that were captured by different agents as an originating packet traverses the  
10 network. A display is coupled to the aggregation module, presents the non-duplicate network  
packets, giving a user a clear illustration of network activity. For the duplicate packets, the  
aggregation module presents a representative packet, such as the originating packet, that may  
be expanded by the user to view the details of the duplicate packets.